

## Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-02

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /112 W

----- 013739

P R 231955Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8839

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BR, AR, UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: UNEP, GC/III, FWEM 13, SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES

REFS: A. NAIROBI 3185; B. STATE 92354

1. SUMMARY. WHILE WE APPRECIATE USDEL'S SENSITIVITY AND TACTICAL CONCERNS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS US POSITION OF NEUTRALITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES. GOB HAS VERY SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST AT STAKE, I.E., HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT IN PARANA RIVER BASIN, AND HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT OF PRESTIGE AND EFFORT IN ITS POSITION. A US MOVE, HOWEVER LOW PROFILE, TOWARD ARGENTINE POSITION WOULD ENTAIL SUBSTANTIAL COST TO US INTERESTS IN BRAZIL. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE GOB'S LONG STANDING CONFLICT WITH ARGENTINA OVER PARANA RIVER WATER FLOW AND THE SUBSTANTIAL STAKES GOB BELIEVES TO BE INVOLVED IN TERMS OF ITS FREEDOM  
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TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SOUTHERN BRAZIL. THIS CONFLICT

WITH ITS HISTORIC ANTECEDENTS IS TODAY SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GOB HAS INVESTED ITS PRESTIGE IN AN INTENSIVE AND WIDE RANGING DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION. ITS VERY GREAT SENSITIVITY OVER THIS ISSUE WAS DEMONSTRATED MOST RECENTLY BY ITS WALKOUT AT THE TOKYO MEETING. (SEE ALSO ARAUJO CASTRO'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM STATE 64710).

3. AT A MEETING WITH DCM YESTERDAY, APRIL 22, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, BAENA SORES, CHIEF FONOFF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, TURNED CONVERSATION TO NAIROBI MEETING, WHICH HE HAD JUST DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. BAENA SOARES EMPHATICALLY REAFFIRMED GOB POSITION, ARGUING THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP, WHICH NAIROBI MEETING WOULD ELECT, WOULD NOT CONSIST OF REAL EXPERTS ON THE LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED. THESE ISSUES WERE HIGHLY COMPLEX, REQUIRING THE OPINIONS OF A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES. IN THE BRAZILIAN VIEW, THE ONLY ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE QUESTION EXPERTLY WAS THE ILC. BRAZIL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR ANY RESOLUTION THAT THREATENED TO SET UP A BODY OF UNINFORMED REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH MIGHT DRAFT PRINCIPLES INVOLVING MANDATORY CONSULTATIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE DISPUTE OVER THE PARANA WATERS. AS EVIDENCE LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM AT NAIROBI, HE CITED QUESTIONNAIRE CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT TO TEN UN AGENCIES AND 17 FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON THIS ISSUE. ONLY TWO -- BRAZIL AND SWEDEN -- HAD INCLUDED IN THEIR RESPONSE EFFORT TO DEFINE RESOURCES IN QUESTION. TOWARD END OF CONVERSATION, BAENA SOARES POINTEDLY OBSERVED THAT GOB WAS AWARE US HAD ABSTAINED ON THIS ISSUE.

4. WHILE WE APPRECIATE USDEL'S CONCERNS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USG'S POSITION OF NEUTRALITY HAS BEEN THE CORRECT ONE AND THE ONE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN, WORKING WITH BOTH PARTIES TO HELP RESOLVE DIFFERENCES IF AND TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. ANY US MOVE, HOWEVER LOW PROFILE, TOWARD WHAT GOB WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINE POSITION WOULD GENERATE STRONG REACTION HERE. SUCH A MOVE WOULD ENTAIL CONSIDERABLE COST TO US INTERESTS AT A TIME WE ARE TRYING TO FOSTER A BROADER MORE SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL DIALOGUE WITH GOB ON BILATERAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES.

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5. REFTTEL B JUST RECEIVED.  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATURAL RESOURCES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNEP, GC/III, FWEM 13, SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES  
**TAGS:** SENV, BR, AR, US, UNEP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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